

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

[Additional two letters at page 27 - 31]

[REDACTED]
(By email)

Our Ref: MGLA111019-4645

8 November 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information which the GLA received on 11 October 2019. Your request has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You asked for;

Can I request to see the Mayor's communications with the British bus manufacturers Alexander Dennis, Optare & Wrightbus between the years from 2008 till 2016 when Boris Johnson was Mayor of London.

Our response to your request is as follows:

Please find attached the information we hold within scope of your request. Please note that off topic information relating to personal matters and the names of some members of staff are exempt from disclosure under s.40 (Personal information) of the Freedom of Information Act. This information identifies specific employees and as such constitutes as personal data which is defined by Article 4(1) of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) to mean any information relating to an identified or identifiable living individual. It is considered that disclosure of this information would contravene the first data protection principle under Article 5(1) of GDPR which states that Personal data must be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject.

Please note that we hold two further items of correspondence with Wrightbus, we believe that the information you have requested falls under the exemption for Commercial interests at section 43(2) of the Act, which is subject to a public interest test.

The Freedom of Information Act (ss.10(3) and 17(2)) allows public authorities to extend the period for responding to requests under the Act if the information requested is subject to exemptions and longer is needed to consider the public interest. I am writing to inform you that it will be necessary to extend the time limit to respond to your request beyond 20 working days in this case. We expect to have made a decision on this matter by 6 December 2019, though if we are able to make a decision before then, we will contact you sooner.

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely



Information Governance Officer

If you are unhappy with the way the GLA has handled your request, you may complain using the GLA's FOI complaints and internal review procedure, available at:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/governance-and-spending/sharing-our-information/freedom-information>

GREATER **LONDON** AUTHORITY

Mayor's Office

City Hall
The Queen's Walk
More London
London SE1 2AA
Switchboard: 020 7983 4000
Minicom: 020 7983 4458
Web: www.london.gov.uk

William Wright CBE Dsc
Chairman
Wrights Group Ltd
Galgorm Industrial Estate
Fenaghy Road
Galgorm
Ballymena
Co Antrim BT42 1PY

Our ref:

Date: **11 NOV 2011**

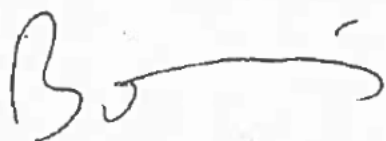
Dear William

I am writing to thank you and your staff for all the hard work which culminated in the spectacular unveiling of my New Bus for London last Friday.

Everyone agrees the bus not only looks outstanding but brings with it so many new features which will benefit passengers. I was hugely impressed by the quality of all the design and construction which is a tribute to all of the hard work of your staff in Ballymena.

I also know you all went to great lengths to make sure the bus was ready for its debut. I would very much appreciate it if you would send my personal thanks to everyone at Wrights for all their efforts and for making the day such a success.

Yours ever,



Boris Johnson
Mayor of London

MAYOR OF LONDON

William Wright
Wright Composites Limited
Galgorm
Ballymena
N Ireland
BT42 1PY

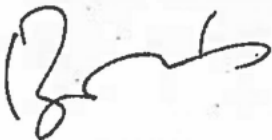
Date: 14 JUN 2013

Dear William

It was a great pleasure seeing you whilst visiting the Wrightbus plants on the 10 May. It was a fantastic experience viewing the production line and meeting with staff in Ballymena, and a privilege to open the new chassis assembly plant in Antrim.

As you know the New Bus for London is very close to my heart and I wanted to thank you and your colleagues for the sterling work that Wrightbus is doing in bringing this exemplar of stylish design and green technology to the streets of London.

Yours ever,



Boris Johnson
Mayor of London

MAYOR OF LONDON

Mark Nodder
Managing Director, Wrightbus
Wright Composites Limited
Galgorm
Ballymena
N Ireland
BT42 1PY

Date:

14 JUN 2013

Dear Mark

I wanted to thank you for the kind invitation and your gracious hospitality at the Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce's 'Grow Something Brilliant' campaign lunch on the 10 May. It was excellent to meet those trying to help deliver jobs and growth in Northern Ireland.

As you know, the New Bus for London is very close to my heart and I wanted to commend the first class work that Wrightbus is doing in bringing this exemplar of stylish design and green technology to the streets of London.

Yours ever,



Boris Johnson
Mayor of London

MAYOR OF LONDON



Mark Nodder
Managing Director
The Wright Group
Galgorm
Ballymena BT42 1PY
Northern Ireland

Date: 20 APR 2015

Dear Mark

Meeting to discuss future plans for ultra low emission buses in London

Thank you for your letter of 23 March 2015. I wanted to write to thank you for meeting with me on 25 February to discuss my future plans for ultra low emission buses in London. I found our discussion extremely helpful and am much encouraged that you share my aspirations to increase dramatically the number of ultra low emission buses in London, including zero emission buses like electric and hydrogen fuel-cell vehicles. As you are no doubt aware, this is an issue with strong cross-party support within the Assembly as well. I was also pleased that you supported improving the design of buses used in London and incorporating New Routemaster DNA in your future designs to create a more clearly recognisable and consistent family of bus models.

In addition to thanking you for attending, I am writing to update you on developments since we met and to set out next steps for taking forward our discussion.

As you may have heard, on Thursday 26 March 2015 I confirmed the introduction of the Ultra Low Emission Zone in 2020. In addition to requiring cars, vans, coaches, private hire vehicles and lorries to meet new emission standards, I have also committed TfL to ensuring that by 2020 all double deck buses operating in central London will be hybrid and meet the Euro VI standard (with the exception of the 300 existing New Routemasters) and that all single deck buses will be zero emission at tailpipe (i.e. electric or hydrogen fuel cell).

As I set out when we met, this will require continued reductions in the capital premium TfL currently pays as well as improvements in the lifetime operating costs of these vehicles compared to conventional diesel buses. I understand you recently met with Leon Daniels, Managing Director of Surface Transport, and Mike Weston, Director of Buses, to discuss TfL's relationship with you going forward. I hope this conversation was fruitful.

Just as one example, TfL have already accepted a tender to convert the entire 312 bus route to electric buses. I want to build on this achievement as soon as possible and believe that routes 507 and 512, which are now out to tender, are excellent candidates to be entirely operated using electric buses. I would encourage you to work with bus operators so that they can bid on this basis.

MAYOR OF LONDON

Finally, since we met, the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group has launched its Clean Bus Declaration at the Conference of Latin American Mayors in Buenos Aires. So far, 20 cities have signed the declaration with more expected to join shortly, underlining the global commitment to reducing emissions from our bus fleets. These cities have committed to purchasing 40,000 ultra low emission buses (e.g. hybrid, electric and hydrogen) by 2020. This equates to around 30 per cent of their total bus fleets.

As you know, I am keen to hold a follow up summit in London on 29 June 2015. I enclose the presentation that Kevin Austin, Director of Initiatives at C40, gave to you in the session following our meeting. He would welcome any comments you may have on this to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] will also be in touch to arrange follow up sessions with your staff.

Yours ever,



Boris Johnson
Mayor of London

Enc.

MAYOR OF LONDON



Mark Nodder
Managing Director
The Wright Group
Galgorm
Ballymena
Northern Ireland BT42 1PY

Date: 18 FEB 2015

Dear Mark

Meeting to discuss future plans for ultra-low emission buses in London

Thank you for accepting my invitation to attend a joint meeting with myself and other major bus manufacturers serving the London market. I am now writing with further details about what we will be discussing as well as information on logistical arrangements.

The meeting will be held in my office at **City Hall, The Queen's Walk, More London, London SE1 2AA** at **15:00 on Wednesday 25 February**. This meeting will be followed by a separate briefing by Kevin Austin, Director of Initiatives, Regions, and Events at the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group on a new global clean bus declaration and proposals for a London summit in summer 2015. I expect both meetings to last no longer than an hour and a half. To keep the meeting focused I regret that each company can only send one representative and this must be at a suitably senior level (i.e. Chief Executive or Managing Director).

As you know, improving air quality and tackling climate change have been priorities for me since I was elected. Over the past seven years, I have presided over Europe's largest fleet roll out of hybrid buses, including our ground-breaking New Routemaster, as well as promoted early adoption of all-electric and hydrogen fuel-cell buses. I want to quickly reach the point where all buses entering the Transport for London (TfL) bus fleet are ultra-low emission, but this switch will only occur in the volumes required if more cost-effective and sustainable options become available – an acceleration point which has proved frustratingly elusive to reach to date. Consequently, I would like to discuss my aspirations in more detail with you and how we can work together to make these a reality.

In my discussions with Mayors of other world cities, it has become clear that they share my aspirations and concerns about current capital premiums for ultra-low emission buses. Increasingly, we expect ultra-low emission buses to become the standard vehicle for all our fleets. We are keen to address the barriers to this once and for all to unlock the true potential of new technologies that best tackle the environmental problems our cities face. Working through C40, cities across the world are signing up to a new Global Declaration for Clean Buses that will be announced at an event in Buenos Aires in March. Following this, I am keen to host a London summit this summer to discuss the relevant issues with manufacturers, leasing companies, public transport operators, multi-lateral development banks and other funding agencies. I have asked C40 to provide a short briefing after we have met to set this out in more detail and explain the next steps for the London summit. Working together, I believe we can unlock a significant and exciting market opportunity for bus manufacturers.

MAYOR OF LONDON

I hope you find this of interest and I am looking forward to meeting you on 25 February. In the meantime, should you have any questions, please feel free to contact [REDACTED] my Air Quality Manager, on 020 7983 [REDACTED] or by email at [REDACTED] [@london.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@london.gov.uk).

Yours ever,



Boris Johnson
Mayor of London

MAYOR OF LONDON



Colin Robertson
Chief Executive
Alexander Dennis Ltd
9 Central Boulevard
Central Park
Larbert
Stirlingshire FK5 4RU

Date: 20 APR 2015

Dear Colin

Meeting to discuss future plans for ultra low emission buses in London

Thank you for meeting with me on 25 February to discuss my future plans for ultra low emission buses in London. I found our discussion extremely helpful and am much encouraged that you share my aspirations to increase dramatically the number of ultra low emission buses in London, including zero emission buses like electric and hydrogen fuel-cell vehicles. As you are no doubt aware, this is an issue with strong cross-party support within the Assembly as well. I was also pleased that you supported improving the design of buses used in London and incorporating New Routemaster DNA in your future designs to create a more clearly recognisable and consistent family of bus models.

In addition to thanking you for attending, I am writing to update you on developments since we met and to set out next steps for taking forward our discussion.

As you may have heard, on Thursday 26 March 2015 I confirmed the introduction of the Ultra Low Emission Zone in 2020. In addition to requiring cars, vans, coaches, private hire vehicles and lorries to meet new emission standards, I have also committed TfL to ensuring that by 2020 all double deck buses operating in central London will be hybrid and meet the Euro VI standard (with the exception of the 300 existing New Routemasters) and that all single deck buses will be zero emission at tailpipe (i.e. electric or hydrogen fuel cell).

As I set out when we met, this will require continued reductions in the capital premium TfL currently pays as well as improvements in the lifetime operating costs of these vehicles compared to conventional diesel buses. Mike Weston, Director of Buses at TfL will be meeting with each of you to explore what further action will be taken to help achieve this.

Just as one example, TfL have already accepted a tender to convert the entire 312 bus route to electric buses. I want to build on this achievement as soon as possible and believe that routes 507 and 512, which are now out to tender, are excellent candidates to be entirely operated using electric buses. I would encourage you to work with bus operators so that they can bid on this basis.

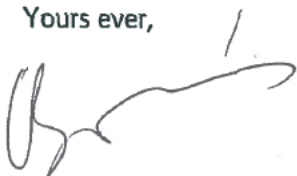
MAYOR OF LONDON

Finally, since we met, the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group has launched its Clean Bus Declaration at the Conference of Latin American Mayors in Buenos Aires. So far, 20 cities have signed the declaration with more expected to join shortly, underlining the global commitment to reducing emissions from our bus fleets. These cities have committed to purchasing 40,000 ultra low emission buses (e.g. hybrid, electric and hydrogen) by 2020. This equates to around 30 per cent of their total bus fleets.

As you know, I am keen to hold a follow up summit in London on 29 June 2015. I enclose the presentation that Kevin Austin, Director of Initiatives at C40, gave to you in the session following our meeting. He would welcome any comments you may have on this to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] will also be in touch to arrange follow up sessions with your staff.

Yours ever,



Boris Johnson
Mayor of London

Enc.

MAYOR OF LONDON



Colin Robertson
Chief Executive
Alexander Dennis Ltd
9 Central Boulevard
Central Park
Larbert
Stirlingshire FK5 4RU

Date: 18 FEB 2015

Dear Mr Robertson

Meeting to discuss future plans for ultra-low emission buses in London

Thank you for accepting my invitation to attend a joint meeting with myself and other major bus manufacturers serving the London market. I am now writing with further details about what we will be discussing as well as information on logistical arrangements.

The meeting will be held in my office at **City Hall, The Queen's Walk, More London, London SE1 2AA** at **15:00 on Wednesday 25 February**. This meeting will be followed by a separate briefing by Kevin Austin, Director of Initiatives, Regions, and Events at the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group on a new global clean bus declaration and proposals for a London summit in summer 2015. I expect both meetings to last no longer than an hour and a half. To keep the meeting focused I regret that each company can only send one representative and this must be at a suitably senior level (i.e. Chief Executive or Managing Director).

As you know, improving air quality and tackling climate change have been priorities for me since I was elected. Over the past seven years, I have presided over Europe's largest fleet roll out of hybrid buses, including our ground-breaking New Routemaster, as well as promoted early adoption of all-electric and hydrogen fuel-cell buses. I want to quickly reach the point where all buses entering the Transport for London (TfL) bus fleet are ultra-low emission, but this switch will only occur in the volumes required if more cost-effective and sustainable options become available – an acceleration point which has proved frustratingly elusive to reach to date. Consequently, I would like to discuss my aspirations in more detail with you and how we can work together to make these a reality.

In my discussions with Mayors of other world cities, it has become clear that they share my aspirations and concerns about current capital premiums for ultra-low emission buses. Increasingly, we expect ultra-low emission buses to become the standard vehicle for all our fleets. We are keen to address the barriers to this once and for all to unlock the true potential of new technologies that best tackle the environmental problems our cities face. Working through C40, cities across the world are signing up to a new Global Declaration for Clean Buses that will be announced at an event in Buenos Aires in March. Following this, I am keen to host a London summit this summer to discuss the relevant issues with manufacturers, leasing companies, public transport operators, multi-lateral development banks and other funding agencies. I have asked C40 to provide a short briefing after we have met to set this out in more detail and explain the next steps for the London summit. Working together, I believe we can unlock a significant and exciting market opportunity for bus manufacturers.

MAYOR OF LONDON

I hope you find this of interest and I am looking forward to meeting you on 25 February. In the meantime, should you have any questions, please feel free to contact [REDACTED] my Air Quality Manager, on 020 7983 [REDACTED] or by email at [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely



Boris Johnson
Mayor of London



Gopichand P. Hinduja

21 December 2012

Mr Boris Johnson
Mayor of London
Greater London Authority
London SE1 2AA

Dear Boris,

Please accept our sincerest congratulations on your most successful visit to India. We believe your views on current UK immigration policies and their potential negative impact on business ties between India and the U.K were well-reasoned.

I understand that you had a conversation with our team in India on the side lines of the CII meeting in Mumbai regarding our electric buses. In continuation, I am seeking your support and backing for our new range of buses for London which as you may have gathered our Group, through its UK subsidiary Optare, is manufacturing in Leeds. We strongly believe these buses, which are at the forefront of advanced electric vehicle technology and help overcome CO2 emissions reinforcing your environmentally friendly policies.

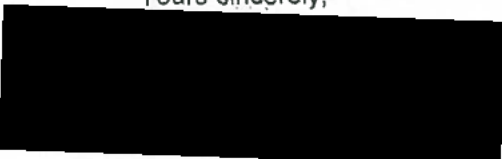
Optare produce a range of contemporary city buses, which are sold in the UK and other developed markets including Europe and South Africa. Recently Optare won the prestigious award for Innovation in the UK from SMMT for their newly developed electric bus.

As part of your carbon emission reduction programme would you consider, in the first instance and for a trial period, to operate two of Optare's full electric buses of in London to ply on two central London bus routes. Over time the fleet could be increased based on actual experience establishing the green credentials London for the world to follow. We will, of course, ensure that adequate training is given to the staff on the operation of the buses and the buses are fully supported during service.

We would be grateful if you could advise us of those responsible for managing bus network in London so we can explore this further with a view to bringing Optare's electric buses to the streets of London. We would also very much welcome the opportunity to personally demonstrate to you the benefits of the electric bus.

We look forward to hearing from you. With all best wishes for Christmas and 2013

Yours sincerely,


Gopichand Hinduja

GREATER **LONDON** AUTHORITY

Mayor's Office

City Hall
The Queen's Walk
More London
London SE1 2AA
Switchboard: 020 7983 4000
Minicom: 020 7983 4458
Web: www.london.gov.uk

Our Ref: MGLA271212-5345

Gopichand P Hinduja

New Zealand House
14th Floor
80 Haymarket
London SW1Y 4TE

Date:

17 JAN 2013

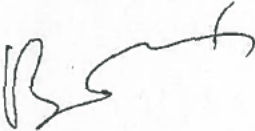
Dear Gopichand

Thank you for your letter of 21 December 2012. Thank you also for your kind comments about my recent trip to India and your supportive observations on the positive effect my environmental policies are having on the make-up of the London bus fleet as well as air quality.

I am glad to advise you that Transport for London is considering extending a planned trial of fully electric buses in the capital later this year and Mike Weston, Operations Director for London Buses, has scheduled a meeting with representatives of Optare at the end of this month to understand the potential of the vehicles available for demonstration. This is a welcome opportunity to review advances in vehicle technology with our bus industry partners to see what contributions can be made to reduce emissions.

Thank you again for writing to me.

Yours ever,



Boris Johnson
Mayor of London

4/7/13

RE: MGLA050713-0518 FW: Optare (Message from Mr. Gopichand Hinduja)**Mayor of London (mayor@london.gov.uk)**

To: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Just was following up on our conversation the other day.

Unfortunately as discussed, it was impossible for the Mayor to meet with Mr Hinduja early July and through August.

The best way forward would be for Mr Hinduja to continue to speak to the Mayor's Deputy Mayor for Transport: Isabel Dedring, who can be contacted by her PA: [REDACTED]

Very best wishes,

[REDACTED]
Executive Assistant to the Mayor

Dear Boris,

Hope you are well and in usual excellent spirits.

I would like to update you on our earlier communication regarding Optare, the bus company of our Group based in Leeds. As you may recall, we sought your support to promote electric vehicles in London which is also in line with your strong support for green environment in London.

Our team from Optare met with Ms Isabel Dedring 2 days ago and made a presentation on their credentials in the electric vehicle technology. I spoke to her this afternoon. She seemed completely convinced that electric vehicles is the way of the future. Not only they are proven technology-wise, they are also viable. It now needs a major push with the operators to change their mindset regarding adopting new technology they are not familiar with. Optare are also working on an electric double deck buses for sightseeing which will become popular.

As you know, if we show case local technology achievements in London, it will give significant boost for Optare in overseas markets also. This will go a long way to make the local British manufacturing profitable on a sustained basis. Ms Dedring has suggested that I meet with you to discuss how best we can combine forces for the growth of technologically-friendly buses for collective benefit.

Would really appreciate if you could kindly request your secretary to allocate sometime today or tomorrow for a meeting either at your office or we could meet for lunch at my residence, whatever convenient to you.

[REDACTED] so sincerely hope we can meet in the next two days. Will ask my secretary to be in touch with your office.

With warm personal regards,

Yours sincerely,

Gopichand P Hinduja

Disclaimer: "This message (including any attachment /s) is confidential and may be privileged. If you have received it by mistake or if you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender by return email and delete this message from your system. Any unauthorised use or dissemination of this message in whole or in part or in any form is strictly prohibited. Please note that emails are susceptible to change. The sender shall not be liable for the improper or incomplete transmission. The sender has sent this message thro' a server used by one or more of the following UK registered companies: Hinduja Automotives Ltd. 3rd Floor, 16 Charles II Street, London, SW1Y 4QU (Reg No: 159177); Hinduja Bank (Switzerland) Ltd., Rep Office, New Zealand House, 80 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4TE (Reg No: FC023910); AMAM Ltd., 3rd Floor, 16 Charles II Street, London SW1Y 4QU (Reg No: 02256550, VAT No: GB524 8933 25); AMAS Investment & Project Services Ltd., New Zealand House, 80 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4TE (Reg No: 01426212, VAT No: 461619445); HTMT Europe Ltd., 80 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4TE (Reg No: 3518451, VAT No: GB 773 6555 93); Sangam Ltd, Russell Bedford House, City Forum, 250 City Road, London EC1V 2QQ (Reg No: 804365)

This message has been scanned for viruses.

Click
here to report this email as spam.



Gopichand P. Hinduja

MPO.

10W2

07 MAY 2014

2nd May 2014

Mr Boris Johnson
Mayor of London
City Hall
The Queens Walk
London, SE1 2AA

Dear Mr Johnson

I am writing to invite you to the launch of Optare's new Double Decker Bus on Wednesday 21st May. I am delighted that Optare is also the official sponsor, in partnership with Transport for London and the Transport Museum, of your official 'Year of the Bus 2014'.

The new bus is a very important development for UK bus manufacturing and has come after our Hinduja Group, through our flagship company, Ashok Leyland, took control of the Leeds-based company three years ago at a time when it was facing serious financial difficulties. Ashok Leyland is India's largest bus manufacturer and the world's fourth largest producer.

We have every confidence of Optare's true potential and it will help Ashok Leyland launch its strategy to expand into Europe. This new double decker bus and 'Solo' electric bus, the UK's only electric bus, have laid the foundations for Optare's future expansion and sales across Europe and beyond to Australia and South Africa.

We have secured employment for 500 people, which will grow further as our strategy and entry into new markets develops. Furthermore, our tie-up with Optare has proved invaluable to both companies in the exchange of technology and know-how.

Our Hinduja Group is thrilled with Optare's new model, which will prove to be a leader in innovation and new technology with a superior light weight design resulting in greater fuel economy.

For UK correspondence
New Zealand House, 14th Floor, 80 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4TB

[REDACTED]

MAYOR OF LONDON

Gopichand Hinduja

Co-Chairman
Hinduja Group
New Zealand House
14th Floor
80 Haymarket
London SW1Y 4TE

Our ref: MGLA080514-5614

Date: **14 MAY 2014**

Dear Gopichand

Thank you for your letter of 2 May kindly inviting me to the launch of Optare's new Double Deck Bus on 21 May.

I wholeheartedly agree with you that this is a very important development in the bus manufacturing industry, and is testament to the hard work the Hinduja Group has achieved since taking control of Optare.

While the invitation is very much appreciated, I regret that it is not possible for me to accept on this occasion as my diary is already full with Mayoral engagements and commitments on that day.

However, I am pleased to confirm that Mike Weston, Transport for London's (TfL's) Director of Buses, will be at the launch in the morning and Leon Daniels, TfL's Managing Director of Surface Transport, will represent me at the evening event.

I wish you every success with the launch of your new bus and would like to take the opportunity to extend my best wishes to everyone at the Hinduja Group.

Yours ever,



Boris Johnson
Mayor of London



Gopichand P. Hinduja

1st August 2014

04 AUG 14

Mr Boris Johnson
Mayor of London
Greater London Authority
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London SE1 2AA

Email: mayor@london.gov.uk

Dear Boris,

It was again a real pleasure to meet you this week at the Mansion House for the presentation of your Air Quality Manifesto. We were also delighted you were able to launch into service our bus manufacturer, Optare's four electric buses. We were pleased to hear you speak – as always you communicate so well, with great humour and you manage to keep an audience's attention to the end!

We are also delighted for your support for Optare's electric bus – we have a further two electric buses coming into service in London in October making Optare the leading company in electric buses in the capital. Sadly, I was a little disappointed that your excellent support for our electric bus did not receive wider coverage in the media it deserves.

We very much want to be part of your commitment to making London have the lowest emissions of any major city in the world. Your overall 2020 Vision strategy is ground breaking and can be achieved with the commitment and support of many stakeholders, including the Government. You can always count on our support!

[Redacted signature block]

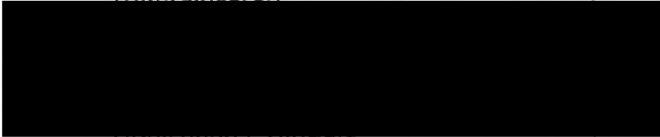
For UK correspondence
New Zealand House, 14th Floor, 80 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4TE

[Redacted contact information]



With my warmest personal regards

Yours sincerely



Gopichandana P. Hinduja
Co-Chairman
Hinduja Group

MAYOR OF LONDON

Mr Gopichand Hinduja

New Zealand House

14th Floor

80 Haymarket

London SW1Y 4TE

Our ref: MGLA050814-3791

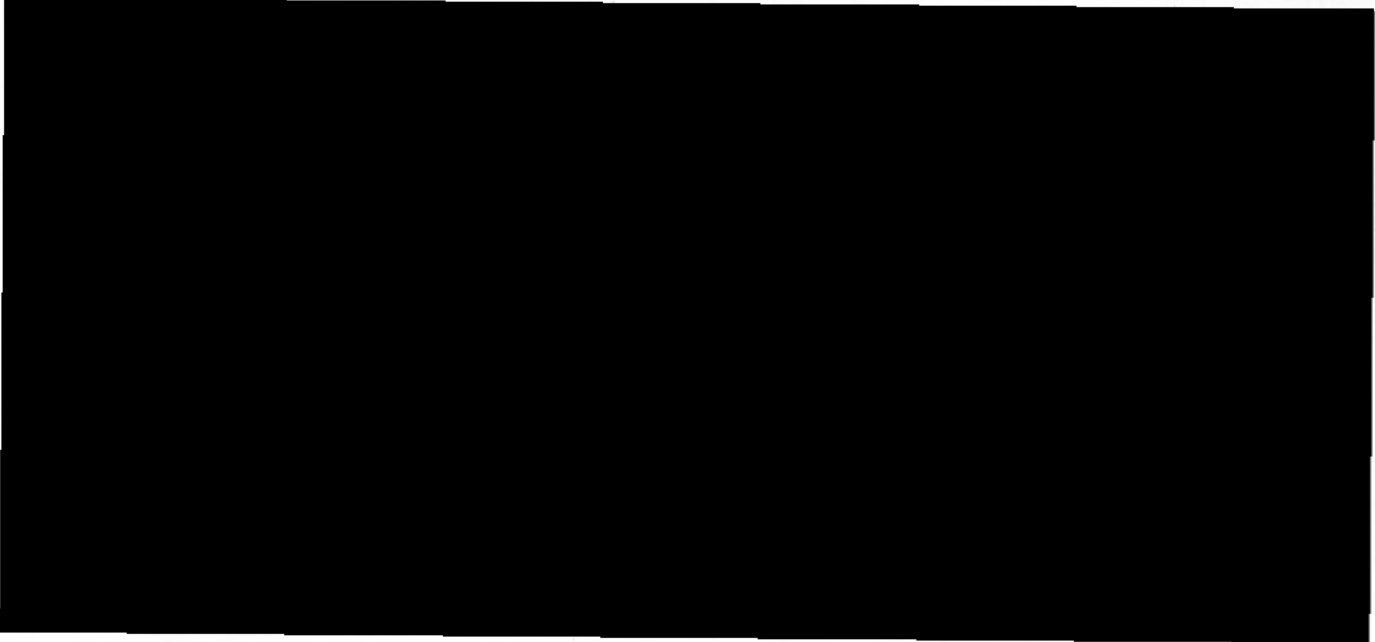
Date: 07 NOV 2014

Dear Gopichand

Further to my letter of 23 October, I am writing to respond to your letter of 1 August. Please accept my sincere apologies for the delay in responding to you.

I am, of course, very excited that Transport for London (TfL) is trialling your new electric buses on route H98 in west London. I strongly believe that we need to explore every opportunity to make London's bus fleet as environmentally friendly as possible, and we look forward to seeing the long-term results of this trial. I too would have liked to see more publicity around the event to help celebrate your fantastic new buses, but in case you haven't seen it yet, please find a link to TfL's press release following the launch: <https://www.tfl.gov.uk/info-for/media/press-releases/2014/july/first-british-built-electric-buses-enter-service>.

I am also very happy to hear that you enjoyed the Air Quality event at Mansion House and I am delighted to hear of your continued support of the 2020 Vision.



MAYOR OF LONDON

Thank you again for writing to me.

With best wishes.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Boris Johnson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Boris Johnson
Mayor of London

MAYOR OF LONDON



Enrico Vassallo
Chief Executive Officer
Optare plc
Hurricane Way South
Sherburn in Elmet
Leeds
Yorkshire LS25 6PT

Date: 18 FEB 2015

Dear Mr Vassallo

Meeting to discuss future plans for ultra-low emission buses in London

Thank you for accepting my invitation to attend a joint meeting with myself and other major bus manufacturers serving the London market. I am now writing with further details about what we will be discussing as well as information on logistical arrangements.

The meeting will be held in my office at **City Hall, The Queen's Walk, More London, London SE1 2AA** at **15:00** on **Wednesday 25 February**. This meeting will be followed by a separate briefing by Kevin Austin, Director of Initiatives, Regions, and Events at the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group on a new global clean bus declaration and proposals for a London summit in summer 2015. I expect both meetings to last no longer than an hour and a half. To keep the meeting focused I regret that each company can only send one representative and this must be at a suitably senior level (i.e. Chief Executive or Managing Director).

As you know, improving air quality and tackling climate change have been priorities for me since I was elected. Over the past seven years, I have presided over Europe's largest fleet roll out of hybrid buses, including our ground-breaking New Routemaster, as well as promoted early adoption of all-electric and hydrogen fuel-cell buses. I want to quickly reach the point where all buses entering the Transport for London (TfL) bus fleet are ultra-low emission, but this switch will only occur in the volumes required if more cost-effective and sustainable options become available – an acceleration point which has proved frustratingly elusive to reach to date. Consequently, I would like to discuss my aspirations in more detail with you and how we can work together to make these a reality.

In my discussions with Mayors of other world cities, it has become clear that they share my aspirations and concerns about current capital premiums for ultra-low emission buses. Increasingly, we expect ultra-low emission buses to become the standard vehicle for all our fleets. We are keen to address the barriers to this once and for all to unlock the true potential of new technologies that best tackle the environmental problems our cities face. Working through C40, cities across the world are signing up to a new Global Declaration for Clean Buses that will be announced at an event in Buenos Aires in March. Following this, I am keen to host a London summit this summer to discuss the relevant issues with manufacturers, leasing companies, public transport operators, multi-lateral development banks and other funding agencies. I have asked C40 to provide a short briefing after we have met to set this out in more detail and explain the next steps for the London summit. Working together, I believe we can unlock a significant and exciting market opportunity for bus manufacturers.

MAYOR OF LONDON

I hope you find this of interest and I am looking forward to meeting you on 25 February. In the meantime, should you have any questions, please feel free to contact [REDACTED] my Air Quality Manager, on [REDACTED] [@london.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@london.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely



Boris Johnson
Mayor of London

MAYOR OF LONDON



Enrico Vassallo
Chief Executive Officer
Optare plc
Hurricane Way South
Sherburn in Elmet
Leeds
Yorkshire LS25 6PT

Date: 20 APR 2015

Dear Enrico

Meeting to discuss future plans for ultra low emission buses in London

Thank you for meeting with me on 25 February to discuss my future plans for ultra low emission buses in London. I found our discussion extremely helpful and am much encouraged that you share my aspirations to increase dramatically the number of ultra low emission buses in London, including zero emission buses like electric and hydrogen fuel-cell vehicles. As you are no doubt aware, this is an issue with strong cross-party support within the Assembly as well. I was also pleased that you supported improving the design of buses used in London and incorporating New Routemaster DNA in your future designs to create a more clearly recognisable and consistent family of bus models.

In addition to thanking you for attending, I am writing to update you on developments since we met and to set out next steps for taking forward our discussion.

As you may have heard, on Thursday 26 March 2015 I confirmed the introduction of the Ultra Low Emission Zone in 2020. In addition to requiring cars, vans, coaches, private hire vehicles and lorries to meet new emission standards, I have also committed TfL to ensuring that by 2020 all double deck buses operating in central London will be hybrid and meet the Euro VI standard (with the exception of the 300 existing New Routemasters) and that all single deck buses will be zero emission at tailpipe (i.e. electric or hydrogen fuel cell).

As I set out when we met, this will require continued reductions in the capital premium TfL currently pays as well as improvements in the lifetime operating costs of these vehicles compared to conventional diesel buses. Mike Weston, Director of Buses at TfL will be meeting with each of you to explore what further action will be taken to help achieve this.

Just as one example, TfL have already accepted a tender to convert the entire 312 bus route to electric buses. I want to build on this achievement as soon as possible and believe that routes 507 and 512, which are now out to tender, are excellent candidates to be entirely operated using electric buses. I would encourage you to work with bus operators so that they can bid on this basis.

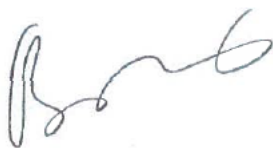
MAYOR OF LONDON

Finally, since we met, the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group has launched its Clean Bus Declaration at the Conference of Latin American Mayors in Buenos Aires. So far, 20 cities have signed the declaration with more expected to join shortly, underlining the global commitment to reducing emissions from our bus fleets. These cities have committed to purchasing 40,000 ultra low emission buses (e.g. hybrid, electric and hydrogen) by 2020. This equates to around 30 per cent of their total bus fleets.

As you know, I am keen to hold a follow up summit in London on 29 June 2015. I enclose the presentation that Kevin Austin, Director of Initiatives at C40, gave to you in the session following our meeting. He would welcome any comments you may have on this to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] will also be in touch to arrange follow up sessions with your staff.

Yours ever,



Boris Johnson
Mayor of London

Enc.

Kc



Ref: Im/MN

10 October 2013

Boris Johnson
Mayor of London
Greater London Authority
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
More London
London SE1 2AA

5 OCT 13

Dear Mayor,

I appreciate your continued enthusiastic support for Wrightbus and indeed the broader business community in Northern Ireland.

As a direct result of your presence at the NI Chamber of Commerce "Growing Something Brilliant" Event earlier this year, one of our local construction companies is anxious to be introduced to the right people in connection with the new Chinese Business District in Docklands. The company, H & J Martin, was engaged in the Olympic Park and has a remarkable history in Northern Ireland building such landmark projects as the Belfast Opera House, Belfast City Hall and the famous Slieve Donard Hotel in Newcastle, Co Down.

If your office could put H & J Martin in touch with the appropriate contacts in relation to the Chinese Business District it would be enormously helpful.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this request, and I look forward to seeing you at future NBFL events.

Yours sincerely,

J M Nodder
Group Managing Director



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Company Registration no: NI 3658C
VAT Registration no: 77584265

Wrights Group Ltd

Head Office:
Galgorm Industrial Estate
Fenagh Road, Galgorm
Ballymena, Co. Antrim
Northern Ireland BT22 1JY

Ref: Im/MN



23 March 2015

Mayor Boris Johnson
Mayor of London
City Hall
London
SE1 2AA

Dear Mayor,

Re: Ultra-Low Emission Routemasters for London

Thank you for inviting me to the joint meeting with yourself, your officials and other bus manufacturers on 25 February 2015. Wrightbus has given everything that was discussed very serious consideration, and we would like to respond with a proposal which we believe will address your objectives.

You made it clear at our meeting that you wished quickly to reach a point where all buses entering the TfL fleet are ultra-low emission, and that they should be both cost effective and sustainable, and of course should continue to incorporate the New Routemaster "DNA" into the fleet. You will be aware that under the terms of the existing contract between TfL and Wrightbus you have the option to order up to 200 further vehicles before the Routemaster design can effectively be shared with other manufacturers. We believe that we can build on the success of the project to date and use the next phase to deliver a bus which offers a significant improvement in emissions and air quality, is more versatile in operation, and delivers even better value for money.

We have talked to TfL about the operational requirement for buses going forwards, and it is clear that the fleet cannot make effective use of further 3 door buses at the existing 11.3M length. Therefore to offer improved manoeuvrability and to allow the vehicle to be used more widely, we propose a shorter (10.6M) variant with 2 and 3 door options available, which we think will cover all the bases whilst retaining the superb New Routemaster identity.

More importantly perhaps, we would propose that the next 200 buses have ultra-low emission status through the incorporation of a range-extending EV (Electric Vehicle) driveline. This driveline is a planned evolution of the existing Routemaster components, with the addition of external conductive

Wrights Group Ltd.

Wrights Group Ltd.
Head Office: Galgorm Industrial Estate, Fenaghy Road, Galgorm Ballymena, Co. Antrim N.Ireland BT42 1PY

T: +44 (0) 2564 1212 F: +44 (0) 2566 3030

www.the-wright-group.com

Company Registration No. NI 36890 VAT Registration No. 778584265



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE



charging to be carried out at either the bus depot or terminus. The effect of this new system is to allow for the opportunity charging of the batteries at different times during the day, thereby reducing the consumption of fuel and at the same time lowering emissions. We can provide the projected data to TfL for their analysis, but we are very confident that the range extending EV driveline will significantly improve air quality and emissions.

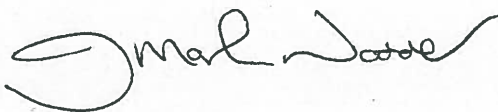
I attach for your consideration outline drawings of both options for an ultra-low emission Routemaster. Since the changes to the existing vehicle will be relatively small, and do not impact the appearance of the bus other than its length, we are very confident of producing the first ultra-low emission New Routemaster by the end of 2015, with the ability to produce the first vehicles for service in the first quarter of 2016.

When we last met you challenged the industry to look at the capital premiums for ultra-low emission buses, and I believe that our proposal also addresses that aim. We have also consulted with a new funding agency and again this is an element of the proposal we will be happy to discuss with TfL in more detail.

I am aware that you recently met with Rt Hon Ian Paisley Jnr MP, and I know that he was delighted to receive the Honorary Freedom of the City of London. I understand that he raised the subject of the potential for exercising the option to purchase 200 more Routemasters, and I daresay he will have emphasised the economic importance of this order to Northern Ireland, and indeed to the supply chain throughout the United Kingdom. The Routemaster project has been transformational for Wrightbus and has become a beacon within the industry for innovation and manufacturing excellence. I do hope that the New Routemaster will now lead the way into the ultra-low emission zone.

I will be happy to elaborate on this proposal at any time, and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

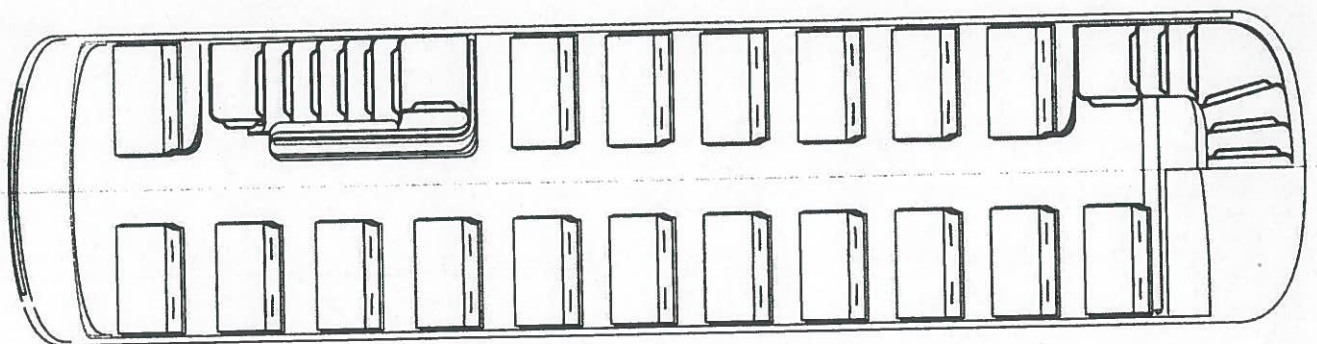
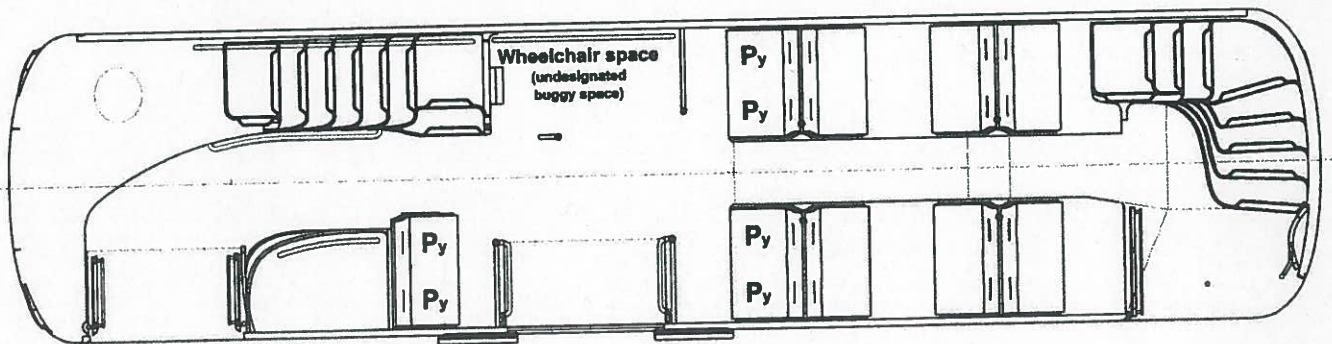
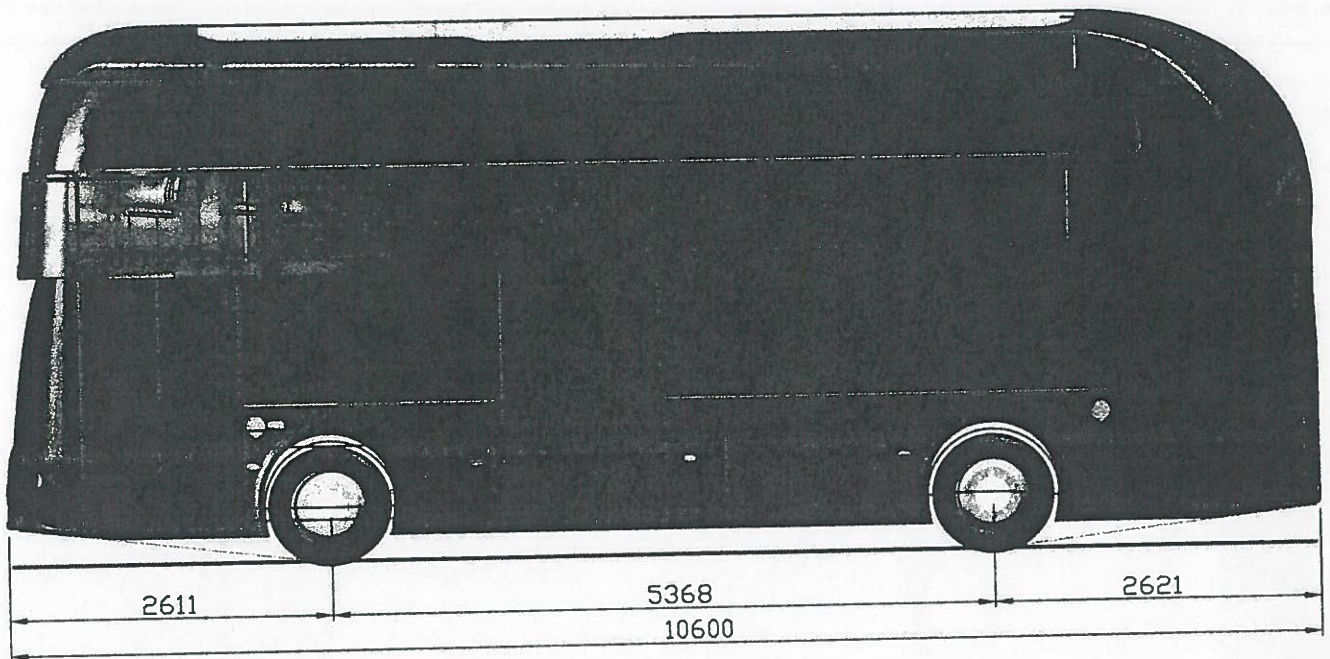


Mark Nodder
Chairman & CEO

cc: Sir Peter Hendy – Commissioner, TfL
Leon Daniels – Managing Director, Surface Transport TfL
Isabel Dedring – Deputy Mayor for Transport

Wrightbus New Routemaster

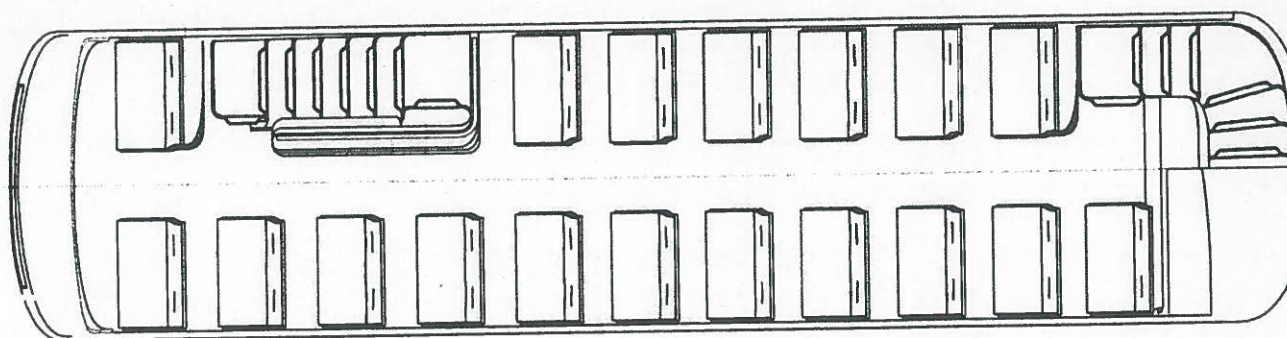
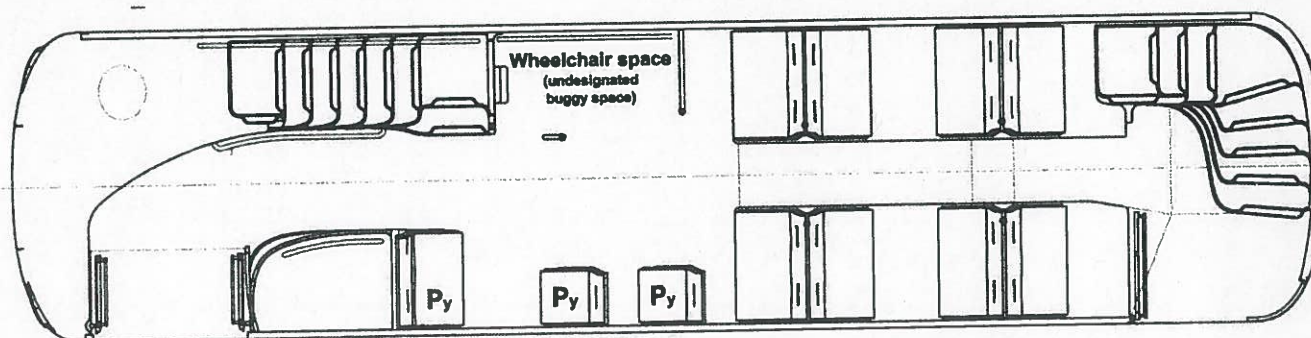
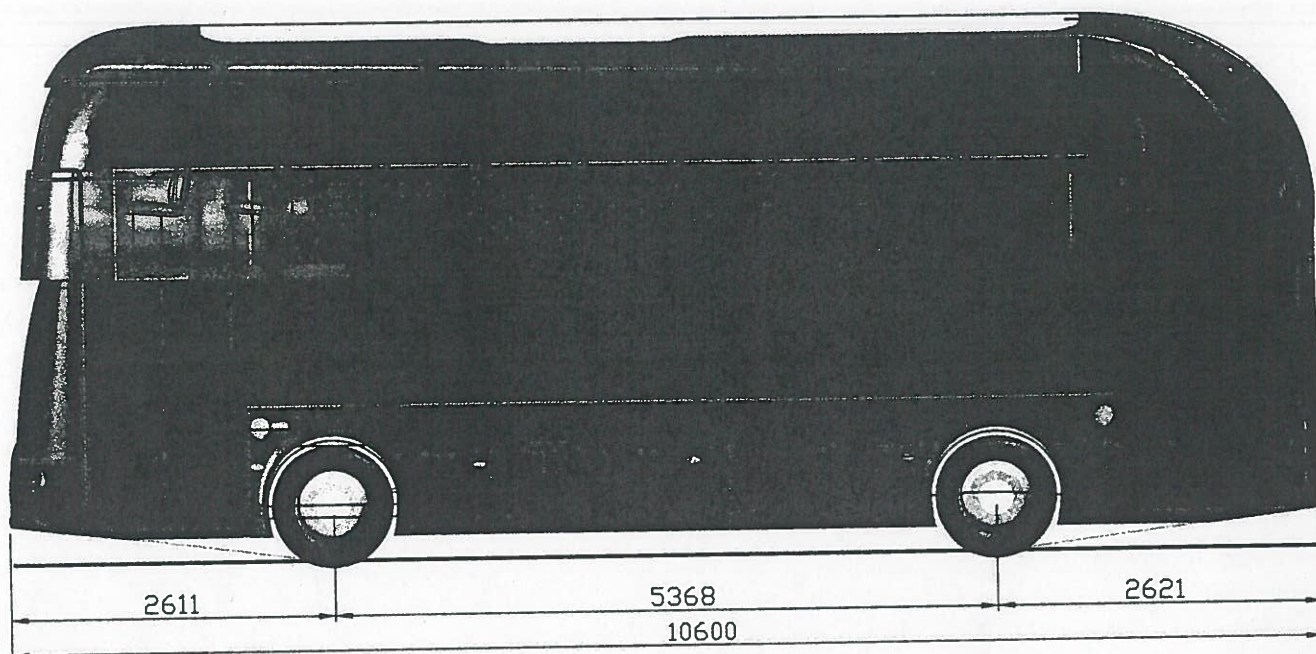
SPECIFICATION LAYOUT
CUSTOMER DRAWING No. CUS-02811-3



Py = Priority seat

Wrightbus New Routemaster

SPECIFICATION LAYOUT
CUSTOMER DRAWING No. CUS-02630-3



P_y = Priority seat